

JUNE 25, 2019
WORK SESSION MINUTES

The Work Session of the Board of Commissioners of the Borough of Cape May Point was called to order by Mayor Moffatt at 12:00 PM. The Open Public Meetings Statement was read by the Mayor who then led those present in the flag salute. Mayor Moffatt, Commissioner Mullock and Commissioner vanHeeswyk answered roll call. Also in attendance: Administrator Steve O'Connor, Clerk Elaine Wallace, and Solicitor Brock Russell.

CLOSURE OF PORTION OF CORAL AVENUE BEACH: Beach Patrol Chief Bill Oat and Captain Ben Swan appeared before the board to give a presentation of the conditions at Coral Avenue beach that necessitated closure of that beach to bathing at this time. Coral Avenue was strictly a wading beach in the past. The water depth in front of the reef is currently only 3'4" and could be as much as a foot lower during the full or new moon. That water level is too shallow for bathing. If someone were to dive in, they could be seriously injured on the cement reef. Due to these dangerous conditions, the beach has been closed and will continue to be evaluated. To limit the impact, the lifeguard stand was moved down toward the rock pile at St. Pete's, which has been covered in sand. In addition, the swimming area of St. Pete's has been enlarged to accommodate more people. If the rock pile becomes exposed, then that will have to be eliminated. Commissioner vanHeeswyk asked about Whilldin Avenue, which is also mentioned in Dr. Farrell's report as having the same conditions. Mr. Oat advised that beach is flagged for no swimming, although fishing is permitted.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Lake Lily: A subcommittee of the Environmental Commission met with the Borough Engineer and other Borough representatives to decide on plans for the landscaping. The bulkhead extension materials will be delivered the following day and the project should be done by July 4th. The Public Work Supervisor is getting quotes on the miscellaneous concrete work.

Rain Garden: The Rutgers interns will be here on July 10 and 11 and will be working with Public Works.

Plan Endorsement Process: The Commission previously authorized the extension of the current plan endorsement through June of 2020. Mr. O'Connor passed out a summary of the process and explained the original intent of the program and its previous results. It is a voluntary program, but he encouraged the Borough to once again apply for plan endorsement. He believes resiliency is key for coastal communities and expects future funding for it. Being a part of plan endorsement will be beneficial for the Borough in that regard. He has met with representatives of the NJDEP and County Planning Department to begin the process. The County Planning Department will assist and help eliminate redundancy. Commissioner vanHeeswyk gave brief history on how she accomplished the first plan endorsement in 2009. She

agreed it is extremely important to participate. Beach replenishment and affordable housing were the big concerns during the first round.

COMMISSIONERS' DISCUSSION (NEW BUSINESS/OLD BUSINESS)

Green Team Action – Proposal for Improvement of Public Engagement in Municipal Government: Catherine Busch joined the board to discuss one of the Sustainable Jersey initiatives that the Green Team would like to governing body to consider. She reviewed information provided to the commissioners and suggested having the Green Team work with the Administrator and Clerk to see what is practical for the Borough. Different recommendations included ways to encourage public input, expand transparency and disseminate information. Mayor Moffatt was in favor of some suggestions, but not of others. Commissioner Mullock said he likes the informal approach used in Cape May Point and would like to do things that fit well with that style. Commissioner vanHeeswyk agreed there are good suggestions and others that might not work as well. Some items are mandatory to earn point, while others are optional or for extra points. Everyone agreed to move toward the goal with the first step being meeting with the Clerk to see what can be achieved and how best to approach it.

Receipt of 2019 Update to Multi-Jurisdictional Program for Public Information (MPPI)

The Board discussed the report which was sent electronically due to the size of the document. Because Cape May Point was a new member in 2018, its data was neatly summarized in the beginning of the report. By participating in the regional program, the Borough's CRS points are multiplied. Commissioner vanHeeswyk made a motion, seconded by Mayor Moffatt, supporting the updated report, which was carried unanimously on roll call vote.

Commissioner Mullock reported improvements to the deck at the Stites Avenue beach entrance have been completed. He also stated engineering work will need to be done for the Pearl and Cape entrances. Mayor Moffatt was in favor of leaving the Pearl Avenue entrance natural and only improve Cape, particularly since both entrances go to the same beach. Bill Gibson commented that pilings may need to be driven because of the height of the dune at Cape. Commissioner vanHeeswyk reminded him that entrance was engineered by NJDEP. Mr. Gibson explained he is only talking about correcting the walkway on the beach side because the i-5 gravel path the DEP put in is current by 4' of sand. He feels pilings can be done in compliance with Florida standards and then have steps down to the beach. Lastly, Commissioner Mullock commented on a nice letter for the Lower Township Police Chief thanking our first employees and volunteers for their quick response at the scene of the plane crash on May 29th.

Commissioner vanHeeswyk asked if the Board would discuss a recent letter sent from the Environmental Chair to the Friends of Lake Lily concerning recent use of herbicide on the lilies. Clerk Wallace read the letter aloud. Commissioner Mullock was very unhappy because the idea of treating the lilies was addressed at the last Environmental Commission (EC) meeting and the representative of Friends of Lake

Lily (FLL) was specifically told not to take any action. The EC wanted time to research the matter so they could give a recommendation to the governing body. He suggested a letter be sent from the Borough reminding FLL the lake is public property and anything they wish to do must go first to the EC who will bring a recommendation to the governing body for a final decision. Commissioner vanHeeswyk gave background on how the Friends of Lake Lily, Inc. evolved out of the lake committee originally appointed to do research when Malcolm Frasier was mayor. Later, as members wanted to do fundraising activities, they incorporated and filed as a separate, charitable organization. She was also disturbed by the application of herbicide and agreed a letter should be sent. Catherine Busch spoke with the person who applied the herbicide who was given approval by the FLL at their May meeting, but never told permission was denied at a subsequent EC meeting. Commissioner vanHeeswyk made a motion, seconded by Mayor Moffatt to have the Borough Solicitor send a letter to Friends of Lake Lily outlining the proper protocol for any activities at Lake Lily.

Mayor Moffatt reported the Police will be present at Alexander Avenue during the July fireworks.

Commissioner Mullock commended Public Works for doing a great job leveling the Alexander Avenue beach entrance. Commissioner vanHeeswyk asked if any softer sand would be put there. Bill Gibson said he'd like to look into Mobi Mats for next summer.

Commissioner vanHeeswyk asked the Beach Director if he is driving on the Alexander beach entrance. Mr. Garrison responded he only drives there when there is an emergency.

RESOLUTIONS:

78-19 Refund of Overpayment of Water/Sewer Charges

Motions: Mullock, vanHeeswyk

Roll call: all in favor

79-19 Approval of Bill List

Motions: vanHeeswyk, Mullock

Roll call: all in favor

PUBLIC PORTION:

Connie Campanella reported the Taxpayers Association bought seashells for Triangle Park. The Taxpayers received a lot of email about Coral Avenue beach and offered to put out information to the membership about such things in the future to keep people informed. She also asked that a "no fishing" sign be put back on the east side of Lake Lily as soon as possible. The plan is to put them up once construction is completed.

Thomas Maye commented that the current Environmental Commission was put in place after some unapproved work being done at Lake Lily. He feels the Borough needs to take more action when people start taking over public lands and rights-of-

way. When it's not addressed, it escalates. He also felt the Friends of Lake Lily should replace the lilies once it's determined how many are lost from the spraying.

Barbara Bassett thanked the commissioners, as a member of Environmental Commission, for having a letter written about the use of Rodeo at Lake Lily.

When no one else wished to speak, the meeting was adjourned at 1:39 pm on motion of Commissioner Mullock, seconded by Mayor Moffatt.

Respectfully submitted,

Accepted:

Elaine L. Wallace, RMC, CMR
Municipal Clerk

Commissioner Mullock

Commissioner vanHeeswyk

Mayor Moffatt